

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and 20-27 are pending in this application.

Claim 20 has been amended. No new matter has been added by the present amendment.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 1-17 are allowed.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 20, 21 and 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,771,327 to Sekiguchi.

Applicants respectfully submit that Sekiguchi does not disclose or suggest a touch panel integrally formed with the liquid crystal display panel by including the upper substrate of the liquid crystal display panel as a lower substrate of the touch panel, as recited in amended claim 20. Therefore, claim 20 is not anticipated by Sekiguchi.

Sekiguchi does not disclose a touch panel including an upper substrate of the liquid crystal display panel as a lower substrate of the touch panel. The Examiner states that "the adhesive layer coupling the substrates 26 and 1 creates an integral touch panel and cell. Also, the substrate 1 is common to both the touch panel and the liquid crystal cell as that substrate is the substrate that couples the touch panel to the cell." Applicants respectfully disagree. In contrast to the claimed embodiment, Sekiguchi discloses a lower substrate (26) of the touch panel (3) that is attached to the upper substrate (1) of the LCD panel (4) using an adhesive layer. As such, in Sekiguchi, the lower substrate (26) of the touch panel (3) is not the same as the upper substrate (1) of the LCD panel (4).

Accordingly, Sekiguchi does not anticipate claim 20. Claims 21 and 23-26 depend from claim 20. Thus, these dependent claims are also believed to be allowable.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 20, 21 and 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and submit that claims 20, 21 and 23-26 are in condition for allowance.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiguchi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,559,902 to Kusuda et al. (“Kusuda”).

As stated above, Sekiguchi does not disclose or suggest a touch panel integrally formed with the liquid crystal display panel by including the upper substrate of the liquid crystal display panel as a lower substrate of the touch panel, as recited in amended claim 20. Kusada does not cure the deficiency in this regard. Claim 22 depends from claim 20. Accordingly, claim 22 is also believed to be allowable.

Therefore, based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and that claim 22 is in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiguchi.

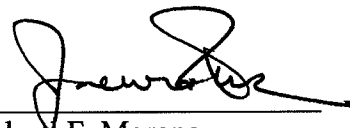
As stated above, Sekiguchi does not disclose or suggest a touch panel integrally formed with the liquid crystal display panel by including the upper substrate of the liquid crystal display panel as a lower substrate of the touch panel, as recited in amended claim

20. Claim 27 depends from claim 20. Accordingly, claim 27 is also believed to be allowable.

Therefore, based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and that claim 27 is in condition for allowance.

An early and favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any further questions or comments, the Examiner may telephone Applicants' Attorney to reach a prompt disposition of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael F. Morano', written over a horizontal line.

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